

Blacksburg AARP Board Meeting

Minutes/Notes

June 4, 2024

Blacksburg Recreation Center

Attendees: Don Creamer, Terry Wildman, Leslie Pendleton, Jerry Niles, Pam Knox, Fred Piercy, John Burton, Pat Hipkins, Nola Elliot, Joy Herbert, Judith Jones, Jamie McReynolds, Jackie Jones, Ben Crawford, Pat Ballard.

Co-President Don Creamer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

The agenda was accepted as proposed.

The minutes: The minutes from the May 24, 2024 board meeting were considered and approved by voice vote

Finances: Pat Ballard reported that we are in good shape with about \$730 in the bank. The picnic has 20 registered but Pat anticipates double that or more as we get closer.

Announcements:

Health & Wellness Fair. Don reported that there have been a couple of Platinum level sponsors (Kroger and NBB). Judith Jones pointed out that some organizations are waiting for the end of the fiscal year. It was widely agreed that Jackie Jones is relentlessly running down sponsorships.

AARP Driver Education. Judith Jones reported that there would be on meeting on the 13th of June for potential volunteers. AARP has an on-line course that is pretty good and lowers your insurance by 5% for each driver that completes the course.

Andrus Award. Don announced that our nomination process is complete and that Judith Jones has been to AARP VA. We should hear in late July.

Chapter Awareness Grant. Don said he and Jerry Niles have the application mostly done. They will submit the application in the next few days. They have applied for \$1,000 related to the Health & Wellness Fair and the revised brochure expenses.

Role of the Chapter in the SNAP Program. Don reported that Brian Jacks and Norm Gold have been working with Jerry and him. They should have a new brochure from SNAP by the time of the Health & Wellness Fair. Don reminded us that we are not a direct service organization, so it is more appropriate for us to be involved in distributing information than to actually be involved in the application process.

Potential Collaborative Event with TCI-NRV. Leslie Pendleton proposed that we collaborate with The Common Ingredients group during Hunger Month (September), perhaps as we did last year at the Giles Food Bank. There was some discussion about a relationship the relative to our scope and resources. Leslie spoke of us becoming more involved in the wider NRV.

It was decided, by unanimous voice vote, to support the collaboration by putting the opportunity out to our membership to solicit volunteers. Don will MailChimp the opportunity to our members.

The Pathways Project. Leslie reported that The Pathways Project focus had changed somewhat to be more on “wellness” than any particular age group. Wellness is to be more broadly construed. Goal is still to meet identified needs without overlap. Currently there are three goals: 1) conduct a needs assessment: 2) create a “clearing house” on successful aging; and 3) investigate on-line and print resources. The group has changed schedules – they will meet twice a year. They will be involved in a focus group meeting on the VirginiaNavigator on-line materials on June 19th.

Leadership Development. Don and Jerry will host a luncheon in the Fall as they did this past year. Don will get the word out via email.

Picnic Plans. Jerry and Terry report that everything is ready for the annual picnic to be held at Smithfield Plantation.

Committee Reports:

Programs. Pat Hipkins reported that she and Wendy Baldwin have compiled the surveys from the last membership meeting. The results were:

- 1) Senior Scams (exacerbated by AI?)
- 2) Engineering Solutions for Reducing Plastic Waste
- 3) NRV Agency on Aging: How its goals dovetail with those of B'burg AARP
- 4T) Driver Assistance Technology: Autonomous vehicles (current research and implications for seniors)
- 4T) The Histotripsy Device: An ultrasonic tool that targets and destroys diseased tissue, including cancer

Membership: Don asked that everyone should look over the draft of the new brochure and reported that the price will likely be \$.50 per copy or less.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.